

James McGlaughlin House
803 Water Street
Saltsburg
Indiana County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5429

HABS
PA,
32-SALT,
6-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JAMES McGLAUGHLIN HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5429

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PA,
32-SALT,
6-

- Location: 803 Water St., Saltsburg, Conemaugh Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania.
- Present Owner: Walter K. and Mae Parson Brown.
- Present Use: One- or two-family residence.
- Significance: The house at 803 Water St., erected to face the canal in the 1830s, is notable as a "double house" with symmetrical interior layout behind a traditional six-bay facade; it was thus occupied by two families for more than a decade.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1833-40.
2. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands, historically lot No. 184. Reference is to the Clerk's Office of the County of Indiana, Pennsylvania.

1833 Deed December 25, 1833, Volume Pro O S & T, Page 113.
Jacob Drum (at suit of Kingston Lightner)
TO
James McGlaughlin (no mention of buildings)

1840 Deed January 5, 1840, Volume 14, Page 2.
James McGlaughlin
TO
Frederick Dunhouse (Deed mentions buildings and describes the north half of parcel as part of a larger lot No. 184; it cuts through the center of a house built by Jacob Newhouse in 1833-40 on the southern boundary of the property; it was legally divided in the 1840s with the building categorized as a "double

house.")

- 1846 Deed January 5, 1846, Volume 14, Page 4.
Frederick Dunhouse
TO
John Hamer (north half of property)
- 1850 Deed February 6, 1850, Volume 16, Page 387.
John Hamer
TO
John McQuaide (north half of property)
- 1852 Deed January 8, 1852, Volume 18, Page 185.
John McQuaide
TO
John Earhart (north and south halves of property are hereafter one)
- 1865 Deed August 1, 1865, Volume 31, Page 497.
Soloman and Martin Earhart (administrator for John Earhart estate)
TO
William McQuiston
- 1865 Deed October 2, 1865, Volume 31, Page 498.
William McQuiston
TO
William G. McConnell
- 1872 Deed January 2, 1872, Volume A-38, Page 189.
William G. and Dorcus McConnell
TO
William D. Cooper
- 1883 Deed September 15, 1883, Volume A-46, Page 226.
William D. Cooper (by trustee Jamieson)
TO
Samuel R. Bingham
- 1892 Deed July 20, 1892, Volume B-57, Page 351.
Fannie Bingham
TO

John Cunningham

1926 Deed September 23, 1926, Volume 244, Page 422.
Charles M. Cunningham
TO
Harriet M. Cunningham

3. Original plans and construction: No original plans or drawings have been located. It served as a six-bay bilaterally symmetrical house, with central front door and flanking, matched room arrangements and chimneys. It originally faced east to the canal, but current occupation is reoriented so the west facade serves as the front.
 4. Alterations and additions: The house has been added onto several times. Between 1871 and 1897, a one-story addition was added to the middle-rear portion of the building; this is currently two stories high, so the addition floor was probably added later still. Between 1897 and 1909, a back entrance porch was added to the north corner. Between 1909 and 1927, a second back-entry porch was added to the south corner, and a one-story front porch was built across the center four bays of the canal-side facade. The house is encased in aluminum (or synthetic) siding, which discourages clarification of the successive alterations.
- B. Historical Context: Several people significant to Saltsburg's history have occupied the residence at 803 Water St. From 1840 to 1858--when John Earhart acquired both halves of the property--it was considered two separate parcels; it is possible, therefore, that from its inception the building served as a "double house" intended for use by two families--as it was by Jacob Newhouse and Frederick Dunhouse.

James McGlaughlin, a storekeeper, owned the property when the house was constructed; McGlaughlin sold the north half of the lot in 1840. Like one subsequent owner, John "Major" McQuaide, he was a borough council member in the 1840s. McQuaide was engaged in a general-trade partnership with lawyer Harrison P. Laird, for which they owned a warehouse on Point Street. With Francis Laird Jr. (Harrison's brother), McQuaide operated a gristmill at the foot of Market Street. McQuaide was also a member of the Saltsburg Section Boat Committee in 1848.

In 1852 Earhart acquired the north portion of the building; he operated a tannery in the back of his home (Arms and White). (This theory is muddled, however, by the 1856 Peelor map that indicates the property as a tannery--but

called Reed and McFarland. And, the 1871 map suggests the tannery is actually south of 803 Water St.)

Newhouse owned the south portion of the building from 1848 to 1858. One of several canal-boat builders in town, he maintained a construction yard above Point Street. John Hamer owned the property from 1846-50; he was a weaver with income of \$100 in 1849.

For additional context, twenty-one reports on other buildings in Saltsburg may be consulted, as well as overview histories of the town of Saltsburg (HABS No. PA-5438) and of canal town development in Pennsylvania (HABS No. PA-5666). See also, Sara Amy Leach, ed., Two Historic Pennsylvania Canal Towns: Alexandria and Saltsburg (Washington, DC: Historica American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, March 1989).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building at 803 Water St. is an unusual example of a double house, as well as an unadorned, vernacular-styled, six-bay, rectangular plan typical of canal-era dwelling.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 50' x 20'; the rear ells total about 30' x 20'.
2. Foundation: High-quality dressed stone and cinderblock; partially banked.
3. Walls: Clapboard covered with synthetic or aluminum siding.
4. Structural systems: Wood frame.
5. Porches: A one-story wooden porch with shed roof extends across the four central bays of the front, canal-side facade. Added between 1909 and 1927, it is plain except for beveled wood supports. The side doorways are topped by raised, shed-roofed porches.

6. Chimneys: Interior brick chimneys exist at each gable end.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are two front entrances, at the southernmost and northernmost bays of the east/front facade; two side entrances in the rear addition, on the north and south facade; and one rear door.
 - b. Windows: The former front facade's fenestration is regular, two-over-two-light double-hung sash that is not original; except for the second bay, which is different. These same windows are largely found on the former rear facade, along with miscellaneous irregular fenestration.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Side gable with paired rear ells with shed roofs; the latter are covered with wide, horizontally laid strips of asphalt.

C. Site:

1. General setting: The James McGlaughlin House faced the old canal route to the east, down a short sharp slope from what is now the filled-in right-of-way. Now the front of the building is reoriented west to Water Street. To the north is a lot and Coal Alley, with the immediate surroundings open, with large trees; to the south lies a residence.
2. Outbuildings: Behind the house there once existed a one-story frame building that probably served as a stable or carriage house, then later a garage.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Old Views and maps:

The collection of the Saltsburg Branch, Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County, Stone House Museum, contains numerous historical images.

Beers, F.W. Atlas of Indiana County. New York: F.W. Beers and Co., 1871.

Johnson, George B., and Palmer, Ann. Saltsburg--The Way It Was--An Appreciation. Indiana, Pa.: A.G. Halldin Publishing Co., 1986.

Peelor, David, and Barker, W. "Map of Indiana County, Pennsylvania." North Hector, New York: 1856.

"Saltsburg, Pa." New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Co. Ltd., February 1886; New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co. Ltd., October 1891, January 1897, July 1903; New York: Sanborn Map Company, April 1909, February 1927.

B. Primary and unpublished sources:

Indiana County, Pennsylvania, deed books and tax records.

C. Secondary and published sources:

Arms, C.T., and White, E. 1745-1880, History of Indiana County, Pennsylvania. Newark, Ohio: J. A. Caldwell, 1880.

Berringer, Gloria, ed. Canal Days Sesquicentennial: 1838-1988. No publisher, 1988.

Biographical and Historical Cyclopedia of Indiana and Armstrong Counties. Philadelphia: John M. Gresham and Co., 1891; reprinted 1982.

Johnson, George. Saltsburg and the Pennsylvania Canal. Historic Saltsburg, 1984.

McCullough, Robert, and Leuba, Walter. The Pennsylvania Main Line Canal. York, Pa.: American Canal and Transportation Center, 1973.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory, "Western Division of the Pennsylvania Canal: Indiana and Westmoreland Counties." 1979/82.

Stewart, J.T. Indiana County, Pennsylvania: Her People, Past and Present. Chicago: F.W. Beers and Co., 1913.

Wallner, Peter A. "Politics and Public Works: A Study of the Pennsylvania Canal System, 1825-1857." Ph.D diss., Pennsylvania State University, June 1973.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was conducted by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record in cooperation with the America's Industrial Heritage Project under the directorship of Randy Cooley; AIHP is an undertaking of the National Park Service, based in Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania. Recorded under the direction of Robert J. Kapsch, chief of HABS/HAER, the project was completed during summer 1988 at the HABS field office in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Project leader was Alison K. Hoagland, senior HABS historian; field supervisor was Dorothy Burlingame, University of Vermont; project historian, Kristin Belz, University of Virginia. Large-format photography is by David Ames. Editing of the final report was done by Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.

This report was completed as part of a larger project documenting two canal towns--Saltsburg, on the Western Division of the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal, and Alexandria, on the Juniata Division--flanking the Allegheny Divide. Twenty-one reports on other buildings in Saltsburg, an overview history of Saltsburg (HABS No. PA-5438), and of canal town development in Pennsylvania (HABS No. PA-5666) are part of the HABS/HAER collection. Twenty-two reports on buildings in Alexandria (Huntingdon County) and an overview history of Alexandria (HABS No. PA-5407) are also available. Results of the project were published as Two Historic Pennsylvania Canal Towns: Alexandria and Saltsburg, Sara Amy Leach, editor (Washington, DC: Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, March 1989).